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CONTESTS [ARTICLE]

[◀Back to search
result list](#)

M. C. H. S. CONTESTS

**Miss Vandegrift Wears Another
Gold Medal—Judges Gave All
Contestants High Scores.**

Last Thursday, the first contest of the county high school was held at the opera house.

Misses Sara Young and Marguerite Catlin gave a pleasing duet.

Horace Thompson was the first of the oratorical contestants. His subject, "A Leading Educator," showed care and thought. He compared Theodore Roosevelt, Horace Mann and Booker T. Washington, as educators, and ranked the latter as the greatest educator of time.

Chas. Kollman delivered a very well-written oration on "The Man for the Crisis." The "man" was Napoleon and it brought out the thought of his timely rescue of France at her most critical stage of history.

Harry Houghton's oration was entitled "The Scottish Patriot," and very enthusiastically did he eulogize upon the greatness and heroism of Sir William Wallace.

Glen Corey came last with a strong, well-written, well-rendered oration entitled "The Effect of a Life." From the manner in which he brought out his subject we predict for him a glowing future for no one who listened to that rendition can doubt that oratory is one of Glen's gifts.

Maud Corey had an excellent essay on "The Dignity of Labor," and convincingly and gracefully rendered it.

Irma White "essayed" to speak with "There's Room at the Top" for her subject and had one of the best selections on the program.

Edith Skinner read an appealing essay on the subject "And the Desert Blossoms As a Rose." It was a home theme and beautifully written.

These finished the program and after the judges' decision, Judge Bell presented the oratorical medals, giving to Glen Corey the gold and to Chas. Kollman the silver medal.

Dr. Schermerhorn then presented the essay prizes and gave Edith Skinner the gold and Irma White the silver medal.

A good-sized audience listened to the declamatory contest at the opera house last Friday night. J. Glen opened the entertainment with a per-

formance on the pianola that proved the accuracy of that little instrument.

Miss Myrl Ross was the first speaker and won hearty applause by her spirited acting. Her imitation of a country school was cleverly executed and showed good power in the rapid change of voice.

Miss Nora Babin, a first year pupil in the high school, dressed to her part, and interpreted the actions and antics of a mischievous little girl so well as to show promise of rare ability in declamation. Her enunciation proved especially clear and her easy manner showed good self-possession.

Herbert Pelton's portrayal of the sufferings and death of Benedict Arnold was very vivid. He gave himself to his piece with full strength which, with his forceful utterance, brought the picture clearly to mind. Herbert is the possessor of a fine voice, which only needs training to become a source of great power.

Miss Alpha Olds spoke "Claudius and Cynthia" with spirit and strength. The tense feeling of the piece was well carried out, and the climax was worked up to with considerable understanding. Alpha is a young lady who has won some laurels in declamation already and she certainly did herself no discredit Friday night.

Miss Myrtle Goodrich spoke "How the La Rue Stakes Were Lost" and did it so well that more than one listener thought there was no room for improvement. Her description of a noble, selfless action and unconscious heroism brought tears to many an eye in the audience. She has a charming voice and appears at perfect ease on the stage.

Miss Elsie Vandegrift brought out the action and excitement of the "Ben Hur Chariot Race" very forcefully indeed. Her impersonation of the haughty Roman, the money-mad Jew and the excited people of the arena was thoroughly well done, and her description of the race made one lean forward eagerly to await the finish. The Press has no hesitancy in placing Miss Vandegrift in the front rank of oratory. She possesses a clear voice, splendid articulation, free and graceful gestures, absolute freedom of action, and keeps her listeners closely in touch with her every word and movement. This is not the first medal she has won, having last year received the gold medal in the Inter-high school contest in this city between the high schools of the western slope. She has also been the recipient of Demorest medals in contests. We predict a very bright future for Miss Elsie.

O. C. Skinner, with a few fitting remarks, presented the medals. According to the decision of the judges, Miss Vandegrift was the winner of the gold medal and Miss Goodrich the silver medal, both of which were donated by the business men of the city. From start to finish the contest was a good entertainment; and it is well worth the time and money of any citizen of Montrose to give his or her unqualified support to such enterprises.